Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0017]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0017] In the image processing method of Aspect 2, in Aspect 1, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area dividing step is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0020]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0020] In the image processing method of Aspect 5, in Aspect 4, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area combining step is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0023]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] In the image processing method of Aspect 8, in Aspect 7, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the image area square-forming step is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0026]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0026] In the image processing method of Aspect 11, in Aspect 10, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area combining step is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0030]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] In the image processing device of Aspect 14, in Aspect 13, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated by the square-area dividing device is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0033]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] In the image processing device of Aspect 17, in Aspect 16, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated by the square-area combining device is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~<u>$(2^N) + 1$</u> (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0036]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0036] In the image processing device of Aspect 20, in Aspect 19, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated by the image area square-forming device is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0039]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0039] In the image processing device of Aspect 23, in Aspect 22, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated by the square-area combining device is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0044]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0044] In the image processing program of Aspect 26, in Aspect 25, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area dividing program is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0047]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0047] In the image processing program of Aspect 29, in Aspect 28, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area combining step is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0050]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0050] In the image processing program of Aspect 32, in Aspect 31, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the image area square-forming program is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0053]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0053] In the image processing program of Aspect 35, in Aspect 34, the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area generated in the square-area combining program is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).

Please replace paragraph **[0062]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0062] In the invention of the foregoing, with respect to a square area to be generated, preferably, a condition such that the number of pixels contained in one side of the square area becomes ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$\underline{(2^N) + 1}$ (where N is a natural number). As a result, a pixel always exists at the midpoint of the hypotenuse of the divided triangles, and the recurrent triangle dividing process can be made easier.

Please replace paragraph **[0108]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0108] When the input image data is not a square, the input image data is divided into one or more square areas by the square-area dividing device 2. For example, when the input image data is a rectangular image in landscape as shown in Fig. 4(a), this is divided into a plurality of square areas as shown in Fig. 4(b). At this time, when the number of pixels contained in one side of the square to be divided is denoted as L, L is preferably ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1.~~$\underline{(2^N) + 1.}$ The reason for this is described below. N is a natural number.

Please replace paragraph **[0110]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0110] Fig. 5 is a flowchart illustrating a square-area dividing process procedure performed by the square-area dividing processing device 2. Initially, L is input as one side value of a square area to be divided (step S1), where, as described above, L is ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$\underline{(2^N) + 1}$ (where N is a natural number). When the width W of the subject image is not an integral multiple of L, 0 is inserted until the width of the subject image becomes an integral multiple of L (step S2). Similarly, when the height H of the subject image is not an integral multiple of L, 0 is inserted until the height H of the subject image becomes an integral multiple of L (step S3).

Please replace paragraph **[0134]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0134] The above recurrent triangular-area dividing process is described below by using an example of specific numerals. For the sake of simplicity of descriptions, as shown

in Fig. 14, a square whose number of pixels of one side is L = 3 (in this case, it is set that N = 1 under the condition in which L is ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1)~~$(2^N) + 1)$ is used as an example. In Fig. 14, the respective pixels are shown as black circles, and the numeral assigned to each pixel indicates the pixel value at that pixel.

Please replace paragraph **[0141]** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0141] Among the above data, when the square is divided into triangles at first, whether it is performed by the first method or the second method of Fig. 7(a) or 7(b) can be fixed. Furthermore, if the number of pixels L contained in one side of a square area satisfies the condition in which L becomes ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number), a pixel always exists at the midpoint of the hypotenuse of the divided triangles. For this reason, in order to make processing easier, preferably, the number of pixels L contained in one side of the square area is ~~2 raised to the N-th power + 1~~$(2^N) + 1$ (where N is a natural number).